Programmes under distance mode

212. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardarshahr, Rajasthan, has opened its off campus study centres in various States, including Andhra Pradesh, without the approval of UGC/DEC/AICTE or A.P. State Council of Higher Education;

(b) whether Distance Education Council (DEC) tried to cover up by issuing an ex-post-facto recognition to programmes offered under distance mode;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaint or representation has been received from institutions or MPs in this regard to take action against the Institute; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir. Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE), Gandhi Vidya Mandir Sardarshahr, Rajasthan, deemed to be univeristy has started study centres in various states without the approval of University Grants Commission (UGC) and also Joint Committee of University Grants Commission (UGC)/All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) / Distance Education Council (DEC).

(b) and (c) As per the information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), ex-post-facto approval was granted to IASE by Distance Education Council (DEC).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Based on various reports of illegal educational activities by the IASE and complaints against the institution running distance education courses without approval of the appropriate authorities, the then Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development directed for an enquiry against the IASE. The Enquiry Committee visited this deemed to be university on 15-16th January, 2009 and submitted its report to the MHRD. On the basis of this report, a show cause notice was issued to IASE. However, this deemed univeristy has filed a writ petition in this regard.

Inquiries against VCs of some Central Universities

213. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiries are going on against some Vice Chancellors of Central Universities for violation of norms and other irregularities and malpractices;

(b) if so, the details in this regard: and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure transparency and accountability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) On account of the complaints/allegations received recently in the Ministry as well as the University Grants Commission against the Vice Chancellors and other officials of Nagaland University, Aligarh Muslim University and Visva Bharati, Fact Finding Committees have been constituted. These allegations/ complaints relate, *inter-alia*, to financial mismanagement, misappropriation of funds, irregularities in appointments, violation of University Statutes and Ordinances, personal charges against the Statutory officers of the University, etc.

Central Universities are governed by the respective Universities' Acts and the Statutes. The Act provides for submission of the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts along with the balance sheet of the University, audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, before both the Houses of Parliament. This, along with the built-in mechanism of checks and balances in the system, ensures transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Universities.

Standard of education in universities

214. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Indian university in the top 100 universities of the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve standard of education in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While certain institutions or agencies occasionally publish list of universities or educational institutions ranked according to their own criteria, there is no authentic official international agency for the global ranking of universities. In a recent global survey of world universities by the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) the Indian Institute of Technology at Mumbai has been ranked at 163rd position and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi at the 181st position. While Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of Delhi and Mumbai have scored highly on all other attributes in comparison to the globally reputed institutions, two factors attributed to the lower ranking of IITs in the said survey are reportedly low scores on international staff and international students in IITs.